



Leader Note:

This topic is going to affect different groups differently, so take the following questions and the passage and discuss them however makes the most sense to you for your group.

On Marriage & Sex • 1 Cor. 7

At the beginning of the chapter, Paul claims that marriage is the antidote to a sexualized society. What do you think about that?

Throughout the chapter, Paul repeatedly emphasizes the value of celibate singleness, and one of the key indicators of whether a person should be single or not is whether that person has sexual desires. He talks about sexual desire as a gift and the lack of sexual desire as a gift. What do you think of those "gifts"? Do you ever think of sexual desire as a gift? Do you ever think of singleness as a gift?

On Divorce (7:10-16)

Paul refers to the teaching of Jesus and his own thoughts on the matter. Read these key passages: Matthew 19:3-12, 1 Corinthians 7:10-16. On Sunday, I said that based on these verses, I saw three valid reasons for divorce: Abuse, Adultery, and Abandonment. Do you agree? How do these passages address those ideas?

On Remarriage

On Sunday, I gave the following guidelines for remarriage after divorce. I said that the person who caused the divorce (by abuse, adultery, or abandonment) must repent of sin and unbelief, open the door to reconciliation, and patiently wait until that door is closed, usually by the other person getting remarried. After that, remarriage is allowed. I also said that the person who did not cause the divorce is rightfully free. What do you think of all that? Do you agree? Is that how you understand the Bible's teaching?

On the Beauty of Singleness

Read 1 Corinthians 7:17-40. There are some difficult parts in this section. What are some key things you notice?

Pay attention to 1 Corinthians 7:29-31. In light of everything else in this passage, is Paul trying to say that men should ignore their wives or that people should ignore their emotions? What do you think his real point is?

According to this passage, what are the real advantages of singleness?

Pass it On...

Do you know someone who needs to hear part of this lesson?

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